

ART. XXIV.—*Synopsis of Lectures on Materia Medica and Pharmacy, delivered in the University of Pennsylvania. With Three Lectures on the Modus Operandi of Medicines.* By JOSEPH CARSON, M.D. Third edition, revised. 8vo. pp. 244. Philadelphia: Blanchard & Lea, 1863.

IN this volume, the author has furnished to his students a very useful and convenient guide to the course of lectures delivered by him in the University of Pennsylvania. It is presented as a framework only, which, however, the student can, and should fill up from notes taken at the lectures as they are delivered. This synopsis shows that the author's course is well arranged and very thorough and complete.

Appended are three lectures on the *modus operandi* of medicines. The first two are devoted to an exposition of the manner in which medicines act through the nervous system, and the third to the evidence that absorption of certain medicines into the circulation actually takes place, and to an account of the mode in which this is accomplished.

These lectures are well worthy of the careful consideration of students, for they furnish the most plausible exposition of the subject we have met with. Dr. Carson has evidently studied with great care the recent investigations of M. Claude Bernard, and by the aid of the light shed on physiology by the researches of that indefatigable experimental physiologist, he has shown, what in the obscurity of an earlier period could not have been shown, the manner in which medicines act through the nervous system. Dr. C.'s exposition of this subject is most ingeniously and carefully drawn up; and in the present state of physiological science, may be received as correct.

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ART. XXV.—*Enlarged and Revised to 1864. The Medical Formulary: being a Collection of Prescriptions derived from the writings and practice of many of the most eminent physicians in America and Europe. Together with the usual Dietetic Preparations and Antidotes for Poisons. To which is added an Appendix on the Endermic Use of Medicines, and on the Use of Ether and Chloroform. The whole accompanied with a few brief Pharmaceutical and Medical Observations.* By BENJAMIN ELLIS, M.D., late Prof. of Mat. Med. and Pharm. in Philad. Coll. Pharm. Eleventh edition, carefully revised and much extended, by ROBERT P. THOMAS, M.D., Prof. Mat. Med. in Philada. Coll. Pharm. 8vo. pp. 341. Philadelphia: Blanchard & Lea, 1864.

AMONG the numerous difficulties which the young practitioner has to encounter, not the least is the correct and judicious formation of prescriptions. The design of this volume is to afford assistance in overcoming this difficulty—to furnish models for extemporaneous formulas, the proportions of the ingredients of which may be increased or diminished, according to the age, sex, constitution, or idiosyncrasy of the patient, or of other circumstances.

That it has fulfilled this object, and supplied a want which the young physician felt to exist, the fact that ten large editions have been exhausted, and an eleventh demanded, would seem to afford sufficient proof.

The work is now so well known, and has been so frequently noticed in this Journal as the successive editions appeared, that it is sufficient, on the present occasion, to state that the editor has introduced into the eleventh edition a large amount of new matter, derived from the current medical and pharmaceutical works, as well as a number of valuable prescriptions furnished from private sources. A very comprehensive and extremely useful index has also been supplied, which facilitates reference to the particular article the prescriber may

wish to administer; and the language of the Formulary has been made to correspond with the nomenclature of the new national Pharmacopœia.

We can compliment the editor for the ability with which he has performed his part, and the publishers for the very handsome manner in which they have presented the volume.

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ART. XXVI.—*Practical Lithotomy and Lithotrixy; or, an Inquiry into the best modes of removing Stone from the Bladder.* By HENRY THOMPSON, F. R. C. S., of University College Hospital, &c. 8vo. pp. 274. London: John Churchill & Sons, 1863.

THE high professional standing of Mr. Thompson, and his remarkable abilities as an author, have led us to open the work before us, with the expectation of being both gratified and instructed in its perusal.

The author commences his work with some general considerations respecting lithotomy; he then successively treats of the lateral operation, those operations performed in the central portion of the perineum, and the high or supra-pubic operation, to each of which is devoted a separate chapter, as are also one to the causes of death following lithotomy, and the difficulties and dangers met with in cutting for stone. He then proceeds to discuss lithotrixy, the objects of this method of dealing with stone in the bladder, the principles on which instruments should be constructed in order to attain these objects, and the systematic application of lithotrixy in the various stages of crushing a stone; and he concludes with considerations on the choice of proceedings best adapted to different cases, and with a chapter of illustrative cases, setting forth the applicability of the preceding principles to practice. From the outset of the first chapter to the final propositions of the last, a series of logical deductions from sound and extended experience is carried forward, thus verifying completely the title of the volume, "*Practical Lithotomy and Lithotrixy.*"

Unusually valuable sources of information have been placed at the disposal of Mr. Thompson while prosecuting his task. Among other aids he expresses his indebtedness to many of the best known hospital surgeons of Great Britain for very complete and valuable information relating to nearly 1500 cases of lithotomy, thus affording him a total of authentic reports from all sources respecting more than 2300 cases, of which 1800 are available for statistical purposes. In lithotrixy, Civiale has unreservedly communicated his unrivalled experience and afforded all the aid in his power to add value to the present work.

The fruits of these experiences, added to that which the author himself has personally enjoyed, are embodied in this work, enforcing the broad principles by which the surgeon should be guided in operations for the removal of stone, and furnishing useful practical details, which extensive experience and careful observation alone can supply.

After an attentive study of this work of Mr. Thompson, we feel embarrassed in selecting terms to adequately express the high opinion we have formed of it. We conceive it to be not only far superior to any other in the English language on the same subject, but equal to any now extant. Of course improvements will hereafter be made in the various methods now practised for removing stone from the bladder, but all that is at present known to be advantageous is set forth in this work, and more than this, is exceeding well set forth. The portion devoted to lithotrixy is particularly useful for the reason that this operation has not been so extensively treated of by English authors as those for the extraction of stone by cutting. We enjoyed for several years the opportunity of witnessing the operations of Civiale, at Hospital Necker, and recognize the teachings and practice of this great master in the pages before us. The apparent simplicity of the operation of crushing as performed by Civiale, which, of course, is the result of the *perfection* of the operation, is well seen in the following anecdote, we heard related by him. A German baron, upon whom he had operated, had a return of the affection some years afterwards, and he told his valet-de-chambre to pack his trunks, that he was going to Paris to be operated upon again. The